

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 SSC-01 EB-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /147 W

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P R 041540Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4438

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0535

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BY

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN BURUNDI GOVERNMENT

REF: BUJUMBURA 523

1. GOVERNMENT RADIO SEPTEMBER 4 ANNOUNCED CABINET AND
PRESIDENCY RESHUFFLE WHICH CARRIES STILL FURTHER THE
DECIMATION OF SUPPORTERS OF FONMIN SIMBANANYI NOTED REFTTEL.
ANDRE MUYUMPU, A CLOSE ASSOCIATION OF SIMBANANIYE, WHO IS NOW
WITH LATTER IN BRUSSELS ON GRB DEL TO BILATERAL TALKS, LEAVES
KEY POSITION AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY TO BECOME MUCH
LESS IMPORTANT MINISTER OF INFORMATION. GAETAN NIKOBAMYE, UP TO
NOW INFORMATION MINISTER, TAKES OVER PRESIDENCY JOB. AS ONE OF
FOUR HUTUS "FOR SHOW" AT TOP LEVELS OF GRB, NIKOBAMYE HAS
NO INDEPENDENT POWER BASE AND WILL PRESUMABLY BE DOCILE
TECHNICIAN AND CIVIL SERVANT IN NEW JOB, WITHOUT POSING
DANGER THAT PRESIDENT'S OFFICE WILL BE MANIPULATED FOR
PERSONAL AMBITIONS OF ITS CHIC, OR THOSE OF ANY TUTSI
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FACTION.

2. ANOTHER CABINET CHANGE FEATURES RETURN, THIS TIME AS FINANCE MINISTER, OF GABRIEL MPOZAGARA, A LONG-TIME ENEMY OF SIMBANANIYE WHO WAS OUSTED AS JUSTICE MINISTER LAST MARCH WHEN A THEN TRIUMPHANT SIMBANANIYE GOT RID OF HIS RIVALS IN THE SO-CALLED IGENDA GROUP. DEPARTING FINANCE MINISTER SANUEL NDUWINGOMA, AN ARMY MAJOR WITH NO EXPERTISE, IS APPARENTLY PAYING THE PRICE FOR HAVING BACKED SIMBANANIYE IN A BITTER FIGHT LAST JUNE OVER CONTROL OF COFFEE INDUSTRY.

3. DISMISSAL OF PROCUREUR GENERAL (AND SIMBANANIYE ALLY) CYRILLE NZOHABONAYO, NOTED REFTEL, IS NOW MADE PUBLIC, WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THESE FUNCTIONS WILL BE ASSUMED BY JUSTICE MINISTER MINANI (LEADING SIMBANANIYE OPPONENT) WITH HELP OF CORPS OF INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATES. (FRENCH COUNSELOR NOTES THAT IT IS DEEPLY REPUGNANT TO SPIRIT OF CODE NAPOLEON, ADOPTED IN BURUNDI VIA BELGIUM, TO COMBINE FOREGOING TWO FUNCTIONS.)

4. FINALLY, DAMASE NGENDAKURIYO, ANOTHER SIMBANANIYE CRONY, WHO INCIDENTALLY HAS RECENTLY BEEN COMPLETELY INEFFECTIVE IN TURNING UP CLUES TO IDENTITY OF AUTHOR OF ANTI-REGIME TRACT (BUJUMBURA 495), IS DISMISSED AS ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL OF SECURITY (SURETE) AND IMMIGRATION. WHILE IMMIGRATION DEPT. IS TRANSFERRED TO INTERIOR MINISTER JOSEPH RWURI, A MINANI COHORT, THE SURETE IS RETURNED TO ITS FORMER BOSS, BERNARD BIZINDAVYI, ANOTHER MINANI ADHERENT, WHO APPARENTLY ALSO RETAINS HIS CURRENT FUNCTION AS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE UPRONA PARTY. THE UNPLEASANT IMPLICATION THAT PART OF THE PARTY MEMBERSHIP MAY FIND ITSELF DOUBLING UP AS SPARE-TIME INFORMERS FOR THE SURETE IS PROBABLY JUSTIFIED; AT LEAST THE PARTY'S YOUTH ORGANIZATION, THE JRR, HAS PERFORMED SECURITY TASKS FOR SOME TIME.

5. FOR BRUSSELS: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION FROM BELGIANS ACQUIRED DURING CURRENT BILATERALS THAT SIMBANANIYE IS GIVING ANY HINTS OF WORRY OVER HIS FUTURE.
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